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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2522

March 27, 1995

UM BIOLOGICAL STATION EMPLOYEE INJURED IN BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS, AWAITS RESCUE

MISSOULA --

A University of Montana researcher who injured his knee while skiing to research sites in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area was in stable condition Monday afternoon, March 27, in a wilderness cabin awaiting helicopter rescue.

Joe Biby, a research specialist at UM's Flathead Lake Biological Station, was leading a three-member team collecting snow and water samples when the accident occurred Sunday, said biological station research specialist Bonnie Ellis. Biby, an expert mountaineer, was able to ski about half a mile to a forest service cabin, Ellis said, noting that his injury was not life-threatening. His two companions stayed with him Sunday morning, then skied out -- about a 12-mile trip -- to get help.

Efforts to pick up Biby by helicopter have been delayed by weather and the lack of sufficient space near the cabin for a large helicopter to land, Ellis said, but the rescue should be completed late Monday afternoon or Tuesday.

A team of biological station employees skied up to the cabin Monday afternoon to join Biby.

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Contact: Bonnie Ellis, (406) 982-3301.

KR
Local and Flathead
Rescue.rl